

In the claims

1. (previously presented) A digital image selection method, comprising:
causing a scan engine to initiate a scan of an ordered set of physical objects;
obtaining a first digital image of a first side of a physical object, the physical object being a first of the ordered set of physical objects scanned by the scan engine;
examining the first digital image to determine if it is substantially blank;
if the first digital image is not substantially blank, obtaining a first set of digital images, each digital image of the first set being a digital image of a first side of a physical object of the ordered set of physical objects scanned by the scan engine, and sending the first set of digital images for processing by one of a print engine, a facsimile engine, an e-mail engine, and a file manager;
only if the first digital image is substantially blank, obtaining a second digital image of a second side of the physical object, the physical object being the first of the ordered set of physical objects scanned by the scan engine and examining the second digital image to determine if it is substantially blank;
if the first digital image is substantially blank and the second image is not substantially blank, obtaining a second set of digital images, each digital image of the second set being a digital image of a second side of a physical object of the ordered set of physical objects scanned by the scan engine, and sending the second set of digital images for processing by one of the print engine, the facsimile engine, the e-mail engine, and the file manager.
- 2.-4. (cancelled)
5. (original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising discarding the first digital image if it is substantially blank.

6. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the steps of obtaining the first and second sets of digital images comprise:

causing the scan engine to scan the first side of each physical object in the ordered set to generate the first set of digital images; and

causing the scan engine to scan the second side of each physical object in the ordered set to generate the second set of digital images.

7. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein:

sending the second set of digital images for processing comprises sending the second set of digital images to be printed if the first digital image is substantially blank; and

sending the first set of digital images for processing comprises sending the first set of digital images to be printed if the first digital image is not substantially blank.

8. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein:

sending the second set of digital images for processing comprises sending the second set of digital images to be incorporated in a facsimile transmission if the first digital image is substantially blank; and

sending the first set of digital images for processing comprises sending the first set of digital images to be incorporated in a facsimile transmission if the first digital image is not substantially blank.

9. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein:

sending the second set of digital images for processing comprises sending the second set of digital images to be incorporated in an electronic mail message if the first digital image is substantially blank; and

sending the first set of digital images for processing comprises sending the first set of digital images to be incorporated in an electronic mail message if the first digital image is not substantially blank.

10. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein:

sending the set of digital images image for processing comprises sending the second set of digital images to be archived if the first digital image is substantially blank; and

sending the first set of digital images for processing comprises sending the first set of digital images to be archived if the first digital image is not substantially blank.

11.-19. (cancelled)

20. (previously presented) A computer readable medium having instructions for:

causing a scan engine to initiate a scan of an ordered set of physical objects;

obtaining a first digital image of a first side of a physical object, the physical object being a first of the ordered set of physical objects, scanned by the scan engine;

examining the first digital image to determine if it is substantially blank;

if the first digital image is not substantially blank, obtaining a first set of digital images, each digital image of the first set being a digital image of a first side of a physical object of the ordered set of physical objects scanned by the scan engine, and sending the first set of digital images for processing by one of a print engine, a facsimile engine, an e-mail engine, and a file manager;

only if the first digital image is substantially blank, obtaining a second digital image of a second side of the physical object, the physical object being the first of the ordered set of physical objects scanned by the scan engine and examining the second digital image to determine if it is substantially blank; and

if the first digital image is substantially blank and the second image is not substantially blank, obtaining a second set of digital images, each digital image of the second set being a digital image of a second side of a physical object of the ordered set of physical objects scanned by the scan engine, and sending the second set of digital images for processing by one of the print engine, the facsimile engine, the e-mail engine, and the file manager.

21.-23. (cancelled)

24. (original) The medium of Claim 20, having further instructions for discarding the first digital image if it is substantially blank.

25. (previously presented) The medium of Claim 20, wherein the instructions for obtaining the first and second sets of digital images include instructions for:

causing the scan engine to scan the first side of each physical object in the ordered set to generate the first set of digital images; and

causing the scan engine to scan the second side of each physical object in the ordered set to generate the second set of digital images.

26. (previously presented) The medium of Claim 20, wherein the instructions for:

sending the second set of digital images for processing include instructions for sending the second set of digital images to be printed if the first digital image is substantially blank; and

sending the first set of digital images for processing include instructions for sending the first set of digital images to be printed if the first digital image is not substantially blank.

27. (previously presented) The medium of Claim 20, wherein the instructions for:

sending the second set of digital images for processing include instructions for sending the second set of digital images to be incorporated in a facsimile transmission if the first digital image is substantially blank; and

sending the first set of digital images for processing include instructions for sending the first set of digital images to be incorporated in a facsimile transmission if the first digital image is not substantially blank.

28. (previously presented) The medium of Claim 20, wherein the instructions for:

sending the second set of digital images for processing include instructions for sending the second set of digital images to be incorporated in an electronic mail message if the first digital image is substantially blank; and

sending the first set of digital images for processing include instructions for sending the first set of digital images to be incorporated in an electronic mail message if the first digital image is not substantially blank.

29. (previously presented) The medium of Claim 20, wherein the instructions for sending the second set of digital images for processing include instructions for:

sending the second set of digital images to be archived if the first digital image is substantially blank; and

sending the first set of digital images for processing include instructions for sending the first set of digital images to be archived if the first digital image is not substantially blank.

30.-38. (cancelled)

39. (previously presented) A system for digital image selection, comprising a computer readable medium having instructions that when executed function as an image manager and a content module:

the image manager is operable to obtain a first digital image of a first side of a physical object and a second digital image of a second side of the physical object;

the content module is operable to examine the first digital image to determine if it is substantially blank and to examine the second digital image to determine if it is substantially blank and

wherein the image manager is further operable to send the second digital image for processing if the first digital image is substantially blank and to send the first digital image for processing if the first digital image is not substantially blank;

wherein the physical object is a first of an ordered set of physical objects and wherein the image manager is further operable to:

if the first digital image is determined to not be substantially blank by the content module, obtain a first set of digital images, each digital image of the first set being a digital image of a first side of a physical object of the ordered set of physical objects, and send the first set of digital images for processing;

only if the first digital image is substantially blank as determined by the content module, obtain a second digital image of a second side of the physical object, the physical object being the first of the ordered set of physical objects;

if the first digital image is substantially blank and the second image is not substantially blank as determined by the content module, obtain a second set of digital images, each digital image of the second set being a digital image of a second side of a physical object of the ordered set of physical objects, and send the second set of digital images for processing.

40.-50. (cancelled)